

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

P.O. BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

(916) 657-2941



April 7, 1995

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 95-25

DISCONTINUANCE OF BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARD (BIC) ISSUANCE TO PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY (PE) PARTICIPANTS

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that the issuance of BICs to PE participants will be discontinued effective April 1995 Month of Eligibility.

Previously, when a PE provider made a patient eligible for PE, she was issued a temporary paper card for PE services until the Department sent her a BIC by mail. At that point, the BIC was to continue to be used for PE benefits until the patient applied and was made eligible for Medi-Cal, or until her PE period of eligibility ended. Unfortunately, we learned that some women were confused when they received the BIC, thinking they had been made eligible for Medi-Cal. Therefore they did not complete the Medi-Cal application process. Also, some women received their BICs late or not at all.

Because of these and other administrative problems, the Department has decided to discontinue issuing BICs to PE participants. Instead, the providers will instruct their PE patients to continue to use the paper card until the Medi-Cal or AFDC determination is made and the BIC is received, or their PE eligibility ends. Medi-Cal providers serving PE participants will access PE eligibility information using the telephone Automated Eligibility Verification System. A copy of the PE provider letter is enclosed for your information.

Counties are reminded that if the PE participant loses her PREMEDCARD, the provider will instruct her to go to the nearest county welfare department (CWD). She must present either a Social Security number, the 14-digit PE number assigned to her by her provider, or some other information sufficient to access her PE record on MEDS. The county will then issue an immediate need card as currently described in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual, Procedures Section, Article 5M, page: 5M-7). The county shall ensure that the PE participant is made aware that the immediate need card has a "valid through" date of only one month, and that if she has not been approved for Medi-Cal after that month, she needs to ask the county for another immediate need card. Counties are asked to encourage any PE participant who comes to the CWD for lost card replacement to file their application for Medi-Cal or AFDC application at that time.

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
Page Two

Should you receive questions regarding the PE paper card from PE participants, please instruct them not to discard the card and, instead, use this card as Medi-Cal identification throughout the PE period.

If you have questions, please contact Leanna Pierson of my staff at (916) 654-0630. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714-744 P STREET
P.O. BOX 942732
SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

(916) 657-2941



March 21, 1995

Dear Presumptive Eligibility Provider:

This is to inform you about an upcoming change in the Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (BIC) issuance procedures for Presumptive Eligibility (PE) patients.

As you know, when a pregnant woman has been determined eligible for PE, the provider issues her a temporary paper identification card for PE services and refers her to the county welfare department to formally apply for Medi-Cal. Meanwhile, the provider reports the eligibility of his/her PE patient (within three days) to the State Department of Health Services (Department). The Department in turn enters the enrollment information into the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) and generates a BIC for the woman to continue to use for PE benefits until she applies for Medi-Cal.

It has come to our attention, however, that some PE women are not receiving the BICs in a timely manner. Or the woman receives the BIC and thinks she has been approved for Medi-Cal, and therefore, does not follow through with her Medi-Cal application. Because of these and other difficulties, the Department will be discontinuing the issuance of BICs to PE women beginning April 1, 1995. Instead, the paper card originally issued to the woman by her PE provider will continue to be valid for PE services until her Medi-Cal eligibility is determined or her PE period ends. There is no change in the eligibility time period, just in the type of card the patient shows her provider to access her eligibility information.

To ensure these improvements occur as soon as possible, the Department is requesting your cooperation in accepting the temporary PE paper card as: 1) proof of eligibility for the month of card issuance, and 2) after the first month, as identification for the phone Automated Eligibility Verification System (AEVS).

Providers must use the paper identification card, along with the following information, and use phone AEVS after the month of issuance to verify ongoing PE eligibility:

- the 14-digit PE Identification number printed on the paper card,
- the woman's name, and
- the woman's date of birth.

The Department is currently researching revisions to the system so providers may also verify PE eligibility using the Point of Service device and Claims and Eligibility Real-Time System. Until the system revisions occur, phone AEVS is the system to use for PE verification.

Presumptive Eligibility Provider
Page Two

All other current PE provider procedures and responsibilities have not changed and are still required. We appreciate your cooperation and observance of this verification procedure. Thank you for your continued efforts in providing this early care program to your patients. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandy Benny of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch at (916) 654-5909.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch